IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 2 is canceled.

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A spark plug for an internal combustion engine comprising:

a metallic shell having an externally threaded portion;

an insulator disposed within the metallic shell and having an axial bore;

a center electrode disposed within the axial bore of the insulator; and

a ground electrode connected to a front end face of the metallic shell and having an end opposite to a front end face of the center electrode;

wherein a cross section of the ground electrode is so shaped as to provide a side surface at one of opposite sides which faces an outer circumferential periphery of the front end face of the metallic shell, with a narrower central side surface section than that of a side surface at the other of the opposite sides, the central side surface section at one of the opposite sides being parallel and opposite to the central side surface section at the other of the opposite sides, and

wherein the cross section of the ground electrode is so shaped as to satisfy $(L/2)^2 + \{t + (B/2)\}^2 = (A/2)^2$, $L = 2[(A/2)^2 - \{(B/2) + t\}^2]^{1/2}$, $(A - B)/3 < t \leq (A - B)/2$, $2[(A/2)^2 - \{(B/2) + t\}^2]^{1/2} < L < 3[(A/2)^2 - \{(B/2) + t\}^2]^{1/2}$, $(M - 1.7P) \leq A < (M - 1.5P)$, where M is a nominal diameter of the externally threaded portion, P is a pitch of the externally threaded portion, A is an outer diameter of the front end face of the metallic shell, B is an inner diameter of the front end face of the metallic shell, L is the width of the surface portion of the inner side surface of the ground electrode, and t is a maximum thickness of the ground electrode.

10. (Amended) A spark plug for an internal combustion engine comprising:

a metallic shell having an externally threaded portion;

an insulator disposed within the metallic shell and having an axial bore;

a center electrode disposed within the axial bore of the insulator; and

a ground electrode connected to a front end face of the metallic shell and having an end opposite to a front end face of the center electrode;

wherein the ground electrode has such a cross section that includes a first pair of opposite sides one of which is arcuated so as to conform to an outer circumferential periphery of the front end face of the metallic shell and a second pair of opposite sides separating the first pair of opposite sides.